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STUDENT WELFARE, APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION,
SHORTAGE OF BABY FOOD IN HUNGARY

DISCUSS STUDENT LIVING CONDITIONS -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 8 Feb 54

The Hungarian government has increased its appropriations for scholarships and other student aid. Scholarships have been increased by an average of 28 percent. These larger scholarships will be awarded primarily to students whose parents are in a low income group.

The government has also provided for the reduction of student expenses. One million forints' worth of clothing aid was granted, housing expenses were reduced, and the standard of living was generally increased.

These measures have had a great effect. The new system of scholarships not only improves the social conditions of students but also contributes to a strengthening of learning and discipline. However, after the adjustment of scholarships, assistantships, etc., conditions must also be improved in student living quarters and eating places. The responsibility for these improvements lies with the Ministry of Education, the university rectors, the local councils, and all others concerned with education and student welfare.

Although most student homes provide good surroundings, many student residences are badly overcrowded. In Pecs, where the number of university students has tripled, the city has taken over one of the three older student homes for business purposes. If this building were returned to its original function, overcrowding would be greatly reduced.

Many other conditions need correcting. At the Raday utca student home [location not given], a neglected, dirty entrance greets the visitor, and boxes and dirty dishes frequently litter the street. The student quarters are not adequately or comfortably furnished. The responsibility for such conditions lies with the house supervisors and the financial directors of the university.

Some progress has been made in student nutrition. The number of dining halls has been increased and they are located nearer the universities; snack-bars are cleaner and provide better service. In the dining hall of Kozgazdasagi Egyetem (University of Economics), the students have a choice of dishes which are tasty and plentiful. However, such results have not been obtained in many dining halls. At the Rakosi Matyas Muszaki Egyetem (Matyas Rakosi Technical University), in Miskolc, there is general negligence in all cafeterias. The food is lacking in nutritional value and is not always appetizing. The city council of Miskolc should investigate the complaints of students and teachers and improve the system of food supply.

Regarding, social and cultural conditions, an important role must be assumed by the university party organization and the DISZ (Dolgozo Ifjak Szovetsége, Federation of Working Youth). The Matyas Rakosi Muszaki Egyetem, the DISZ, and the faculty have set a good example by holding a public meeting with the students to discuss methods of improving such conditions.

The university party organization seldom speaks of the great burden which the government assumed when it insured the training of 5 1/2 times as many students as before the war. It must be explained to the students that while 80 percent of the student expenses was previously paid by parents, the state now provides living quarters, financial aid, medical consulting rooms, and funds for cultural and sports purposes. Under the previous regime the children of farm laborers and servants, poor peasants, and factory workers rarely went to the university.

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Educators alone cannot solve the problems. The party should also ask for help from the teachers, especially those professors who work tirelessly on the social and cultural affairs of the students, as, for example, Professors Macskasi and Papp at the Muszaki Egyetem (Technical University) and the professors of the Italian Institute at the Eotvos Lorand Tudomany Egyetem (Lorand Eotvos University of Science).

APARTMENT HOUSES TO BE BUILT -- Budapest, Magyar Hap, 13 Jul 53

During the remainder of 1953, the Budapest City Council will spend 21 million forints on the building of apartment houses. Most of the new buildings will be located in the area bounded by Nagy-Lajos Kiraly ut, Mogyorodi ut, and Fogarasi ut, where 16 two-story buildings with a total of 456 apartments will go up. Sixteen houses with a total of 282 apartments are to be built in the area between Rona utca and Thorkoly ut.

In the Belke ut residential area, 248 new houses will be erected. A building with 140 apartments is to be erected on Harmat utca, in the Tenth District. Much of the new construction will begin this year. In addition, many demolished houses will be renovated.

Each apartment house having at least 25 apartments will be provided with a modern laundry room with a washing machine. Storage space for bicycles and motorcycles is also planned. Nurseries and shopping centers will be located near the new buildings.

The construction of several thousand new apartment houses will also be started in the provinces. The construction of housing units for industrial centers will begin this year, including 1,022 new dwellings for Satalinvaros, 500 for Komlo, 400 for Diosgyor, 260 for Debrecen, 100 for Gyor, 500 for Kuzinc-barcina, and 100 for Ozd.

In 1954, the Ministry of Building Plans to put up 3,000 small houses for peasants and 2,000 for miners.

SCARCITY OF BABY FOOD -- Budapest, Magyar Hap, 2 Jul 53

During the month of July 1953, the popular baby food known as Lactorizan has been unavailable, or available in inadequate quantities. Rice is a basic ingredient of Lactorizan, and the shortage is due to the fact that RIEMERT, a department of the Ministry of Produce Collection, failed to issue supplies of rice to the Egyszalt Gyogyszer- és Élelmiszer-fuvar (United Drug and Food Factory) until the Minister of Public Health personally interceded. When the factory finally received some rice, the amount granted was so small that the demand for Lactorizan could not possibly be filled.

The baby food will continue in short supply throughout August and September unless RIEMERT takes action immediately.

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